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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

By Scroggs

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Tracy S. Speake upon  
his receipt of the Germantown's Lions Club  
Citizen of the Year Award for 2000.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary and dedicated efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Tracy S. Speake who has been appropriately recognized as the 2000 Citizen of the Year by the Germantown Lions Club for his outstanding leadership and compassionate service to his fellow citizens of Germantown; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speake lends his time and remarkable talents to many notable causes and organizations in his community; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 Tracy S. Speake served as Chairman of the Shelby County Medical Society's Mental Illness Legislation Committee; under his leadership the subcommittee worked to define justifications for adopting model legislation to stop the practice of incarcerating homeless people, who were mentally ill, in overcrowded jail facilities; and

WHEREAS, Tracy Speake, in 1996, was part of Leadership Germantown's Inaugural Class; in 1998 and 1999 he diligently served on its Board of Directors and was Co-Chairman of the Trip to Nashville, to study the practices of state government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speake, in 1996 -1998, served as president for Leadership Germantown's Alumni Association, and as president he established a basis for future growth by setting goals, and creating, in his first year, the Jo Reed Award; and

WHEREAS, Tracy S. Speake industriously served as chairman for the George Washington Reading Program, a program for all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Germantown, and as chairman he organized the readers for every school and personally took the time to read at each school; and

WHEREAS, as a Leadership 2000 board member he helped to establish the criteria for the Heroes Program and was part of the Heroes Selection Panel; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speake served, from 1995 to 1997, as Chairman of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission for the City of Germantown, and under his guidance the commission created the Senior Expo, and the Senior Housing Ordinances, and conducted the first city survey of its seniors; and

WHEREAS, for two years as Chairman of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, Tracy Speake, alongside Representative Larry Scroggs, worked tirelessly in support of state legislation that would allow a property tax deferral for seniors; and

WHEREAS since 1980, he has been a devout member of the Germantown United Methodist Church, faithfully serving his fellow parishioners as an adult Sunday School Teacher, a member of the Official Board, and Finance Committee, and as Stewardship Chairman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speake, from 1999 -2000, served with distinction as Chairman of the Senior Adult Council, and during his innovative and productive term he established the Members of My Family program, a ministry of lay people who call on homebound people and retirement and nursing home residents to provide needed companionship and assist them in

their shopping, doctor visits and various errands; the ministry also conducted surveys of the needs of the church's seniors to ensure quality and beneficial programs for them; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, he has judged the Memphis Business Journal's Small Business Awards, and has assisted in devising uniform questions for the interviewing of finalists; and

WHEREAS, Tracy S. Speake is the co-founder of the Germantown High School, Parent, Teacher, Student Association, and served as its President for 3 years; during his term he revitalized the PTA and with the help of other members of the organization founded: Teacher Appreciation Day, the Teacher of the Year Award and expanded the College Night to include over one hundred universities in attendance; and

WHEREAS, with City Administrator Patrick Lawton, Mr. Speake established The Brown Bag Group, a development program for aspiring managers, that met each Tuesday for nine months to learn about the practical aspects of managing people, ethics, goal-setting, hiring and firing, and coaching; all twelve individuals involved in this successful program were promoted in their various fields; and

WHEREAS, he served on the first two Promotion Panels for the city of Germantown's Police Force; and

WHEREAS, Tracy S. Speake was the initial Host of Mentors, a GHSTV program for senior citizens; Mentors, in competition with programs from other Public Access Stations, received the Senior Programming Award of 1999; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speake, in 1999, served on the Advisory Committee for the Germantown Arts Alliance, and later as a member of the Arts Alliance 2000 board, heading up the Major Gifts division; and

WHEREAS, he has been a dedicated member of the Germantown Chamber of Commerce for three years; and

WHEREAS, Tracy Speake, from 1995-1998, volunteered four evenings a week at the Kirby Oaks Retirement Home, serving meals; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. Speake began volunteering, four or five nights each week, at St. Francis Nursing Home; each evening he helps four to six fragile patients eat their evening meal in the dining area; he also visits four to six bed-bound patients each evening; and

WHEREAS, Tracy Speake exemplifies the spirit of compassion and service to one's fellow citizens that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Speake for his dedication and compassionate service to the people of Germantown and the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Tracy S. Speake for his admirable and benevolent service to the citizens of the city of Germantown and the state of Tennessee and congratulate him on his much deserved receipt of the Germantown Lions Club Citizen of the Year 2000. We also extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.